



# John Zerwas, M.D.

## State Representative

### District 28

Capitol Update - February 11, 2011

## Committee Assignments for the 82nd Legislature

On Wednesday, Representative Zerwas was appointed to three influential committees: Appropriations, Calendars and Public Health.

The Appropriations Committee is responsible for designing a budget that will fund the state's operations for a two year period. Consisting of twenty-seven members, the committee controls the appropriation of money to any bill, resolution or state agency. Appropriations held its first hearing on Wednesday afternoon. This is Rep. Zerwas's third session to serve on the Appropriations Committee.

The Calendars Committee receives bills that have passed out of their referred committees and sets the schedule for when those bills will be heard on the House floor. This committee is responsible for the general and major state calendars.

The Public Health Committee consists of eleven members and is accountable for issues pertaining to the protection of public health, prevention of mental illness and partial oversight over the Health and Human Services Commission. This will be Rep. Zerwas's second session to serve on this committee.

These committees will cover a wide range of issues during the 82nd Legislative Session. For more information on these issues and the progress of each committee, please visit [www.house.state.tx.us/committees](http://www.house.state.tx.us/committees).



*Swearing-In Day: January 11, 2011*

### **State of the State**

Governor Perry presented his State of the State address to the Texas Legislature on February 7th. His speech focused on maintaining a strong business climate while promoting fiscal responsibility. The 82nd Legislature will face a significant budget shortfall, possible creation of a state health insurance exchange, redistricting and other issues impacting Texas.

### **Texas Pro-Life Rally**

February 10th was Pro-Life Advocacy Day at the Capitol. Advocates from across Texas were attending the rally to show their support of Senate Bill 16 relating to informed consent to abortion. Also known as the Sonogram Bill, this legislation will require that a sonogram be shown to the individual before consenting to an abortion. SB 16 has passed out of the Senate State Affairs Committee.

### **Honorary Page Program**

The Honorary Page Program gives youth between the ages of eight and eighteen the opportunity to see the legislature in action. They will spend the day assisting House Sergeants on the House floor and around the Capitol. Please contact the Austin office at 512-463-0657 to inquire about the application process.



*Rep. Zerwas and Staff:  
From left - Brandon, Brad, Rep. Zerwas, Caroline and Hunter*

*If you would like to view previous newsletters, please visit [www.johnzerwas.com](http://www.johnzerwas.com).*